

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

#### **Listing of the claims:**

Following is a listing of all claims in the present application, which listing supersedes all previously presented claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A semiconductor integrated circuit, comprising:  
a check unit which compares a value of a pixel of interest with values of neighboring pixels contained in an image signal supplied from an image sensor, and determines based on the comparison whether the pixel of interest is defective; and  
a defect correcting unit which corrects the value of the pixel of interest by using values of surrounding pixels in response to the determination by said check unit that the pixel of interest is defective, the defect correcting circuit including:  
a corrected-value generating unit which generates a corrected value by correcting the value of the pixel of interest based on an average of the values of the surrounding pixels; and  
a switch unit which selects either the corrected value or the image signal from the image sensor in response to the determination by said check unit.

2. (Original) The semiconductor integrated circuit as claimed in claim 1, wherein said check unit ascertains that the pixel of interest is defective in response to a detection that the value of the pixel of interest differs from the values of the neighboring pixels by more than a predetermined value.

3. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ semiconductor integrated circuit ~~as claimed~~  
~~in claim 2~~, comprising:

a check unit which compares a value of a pixel of interest with values of  
neighboring pixels contained in an image signal supplied from an image sensor, and  
determines based on the comparison whether the pixel of interest is defective, the  
check unit ascertaining that the pixel of interest is defective in response to a detection  
that the value of the pixel of interest differs from the values of the neighboring pixels by  
more than a predetermined value; and

a defect correcting unit which corrects the value of the pixel of interest by using  
values of surrounding pixels in response to the determination by said check unit that the  
pixel of interest is defective,

wherein said check unit includes:

a first comparison unit which determines whether the value of the pixel of  
interest differs from the values of the neighboring pixels by more than a first  
predetermined difference in a first pixel-array direction;

a second comparison unit which determines whether the value of the pixel  
of interest differs from the values of the neighboring pixels by more than a second  
predetermined difference in a second pixel-array direction; and

a defect checking unit which ascertains that the pixel of interest is  
defective if both said first comparison unit and said second comparison unit determine  
that the value of the pixel of interest differs from the values of the neighboring pixels by  
more than the respective predetermined differences.

4. (Original) The semiconductor integrated circuit as claimed in claim 3, wherein said first comparison unit determines whether the value of the pixel of interest differs from an average of the values of the neighboring pixels by more than the first predetermined difference in the first pixel-array direction, and said second comparison unit determines whether the value of the pixel of interest differs from an average the values of the neighboring pixels by more than the second predetermined difference in the second pixel-array direction.

Claims 5-7 (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A The method as claimed in claim 7 of correcting a defect pixel in an image signal supplied from an image sensor, comprising the steps of:  
comparing a value of a pixel of interest with values of neighboring pixels  
contained in the image signal supplied from the image sensor;  
determining, based on the comparison, whether the pixel of interest is defective,  
the step of determining ascertaining that the pixel of interest is defective in response to  
a detection that the value of the pixel of interest differs from the values of the  
neighboring pixels by more than a predetermined value; and  
correcting the value of the pixel of interest by using values of surrounding pixels  
in response to the determination that the pixel of interest is defective,  
wherein said step of determining includes:

a first comparison step of determining whether the value of the pixel of interest differs from the values of the neighboring pixels by more than a first predetermined difference in a first pixel-array direction;

a second comparison step of determining whether the value of the pixel of interest differs from the values of the neighboring pixels by more than a second predetermined difference in a second pixel-array direction; and

a step of ascertaining that the pixel of interest is defective if both said first comparison step and said second comparison step determine that the value of the pixel of interest differs from the values of the neighboring pixels by more than the respective predetermined differences.

9. (Currently Amended) An image processor, comprising:

a check unit which compares a value of a pixel of interest with values of neighboring pixels contained in an image signal supplied from an image sensor, and determines based on the comparison whether the pixel of interest is defective;

a defect correcting unit which corrects the value of the pixel of interest by using values of surrounding pixels in response to the determination by said check unit that the pixel of interest is defective; and

a processing unit which processes the image signal having undergone defect correction by the defect correcting unit, wherein

said defect correcting circuit includes:

a corrected-value generating unit which generates a corrected value by correcting the value of the pixel of interest based on an average of the values of the surrounding pixels; and

a switch unit which selects either the corrected value or the image signal from the image sensor in response to the determination by said check unit.

10. (Original) The image processor as claimed in claim 9, the processing unit includes at least one of a RGB conversion unit, a white balancing unit, a contour enhancing unit, a gamma correction unit, and a format conversion unit.